

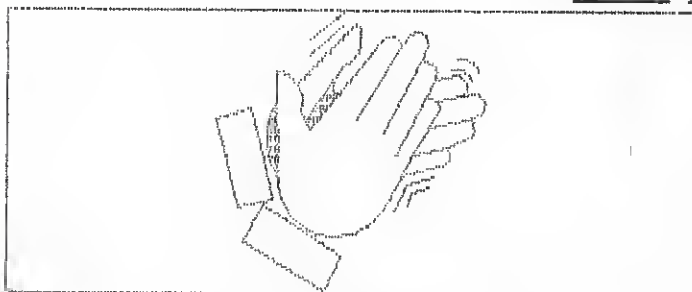
BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Been There, Done That is a Diplomacy subzine to both Mark Lilleheht's The Scribblerist in hard copy and distributed through the U.S.P.S., and Ken Hill's The Armchair Diplomat in electronic format and distributed via download from Data Library 5 of the Gamer's Forum on the Compuserve Information Network. Players, standers by, a few traders, and anyone else whom the fancy strikes me will also receive it through the mail. Diplomacy is owned by the Avalon Hill Game Co., and was invented by Alan Calhamer. But you already knew that, didn't you?

Actually, this is no longer Been There, Done That. From here on out, this is Costaguana Under the Covenant, a Pentagram Publication. Seems Bob Sacks insisted Conrad not only become a Pentagram Pub, but sign, in blood, that any future Costaguana editors, publishers, their descendants, people their descendants might bump into in the supermarket, people who these people seen in supermarkets might pass on the highway, etc., all had to be Pentagram Publishers. Connie balked. So Bob offered me the job. I accepted gladly. Hey, anything to get one of those oh-so-high profile positions of REAL POWER in this hobby! Next, I want to talk to Mr. Sacks about maybe also turning this into The Scribblerist Under the Covenant, after all, that college punk made a death threat against me and deserves to be delisted. You all witnessed it, right?

By the way, how in the name of John Boardman does this Sacks guy have all the time to make sure all the hobby projects are being handled up to his exacting standards, now and generations into the future, and still have time to sign a major league contract with the Yankees to play second base?

STAND BY LIST



Still the watch dogs of democracy, bravely defending the hobby from the anarchy of Civil Disorder: Jason Bergmann, Tim Moore, Steve Heinowski, Mike Morris, Paul Mil-ewski, Stephen Dorneman, Vince Lutterbie, Stan Johnson, John Crosby, George Mann, and Jimmy Williams. Pretty impressive group,

eh? I mean the publisher of Son of Flip! But still no Mark Lilleheht!!!

Status of next game of regular Dip: Signed up are - Karl Hoffman, Tim Moore (Paid), Vince Lutterbie, Bill Hunter (paid), and Jimmy Williams (I think). Need 2 more (I think... keep reading, I'll clear this up). Also willing to open one game of Gunboat (two signed up), and one game of Deviant Diplomacy (new rules voted in each season). Game fee is \$5.

Austria (Aube) : A SER-Bul(dislodged, retreat-Tri); F GRE S A Ser-Bul;
 A BOH S A Mun; A Tri-BUD; A VIE S A Tri-Bud.
 England (Hunter): F Lvp-IRI; F Eng S A Bel-Pic; A Bel-PIC; F Nth-
 Bel(NSU); F Nwy-NTH; F LON H (unordered).
 France (Morris) : A Pic-BUR; F MID-Eng; A Gas-MAR.
 Germany (Smith) : A RUH S BER-Mun; A BER-Mun; F HOL-Kie; A DEN-Kie.
 Italy (Welter) : F Tun-WES; F Nap-ION; A MUN H(and prays); A Pie-
 TYO; A VEN H.
 Russia (McKee) : A Mos-UKR; A War-GAL; A Gal-RUM; A Rum-SER; F SEV
 S A Gal-RUM; F SWE S F Nwy(OTM).
 Turkey (Tabor) : A BUL S Rum-Ser; A CON S BUL; F AEG-Gre; F SMY H.

Press:

<London> It is with great regret that the British Navy must continue the task set before her by the previous government of France. It is felt that even the change of French leadership will not be enough to control the aroused passions of the French populace and therefore it is necessary to our own survival that we continue.

Ger-Ita: May the fleas of a thousand camels infest your armpits.

Ger-Aus: May the fleas of a thousand Russians and Turks infest your lands.

Vie-Mos: If you did what you said you would, thanks; if not, I hope you die to regret it (grin).

Vie-Con: If you didn't reciprocate my stab, sorry, but my instincts told me you'd rather have an alliance with Russia than with me.

Vie-Rom: Here's to a long and prosperous alliance!

Vie-Lon: You've been awfully quiet! How are things going in your neck of the woods?

Vie-GM: Since you've had it so rough lately, especially with Steve's vicious betrayal which forced you to settle for a 14-center two-way draw, I thought I'd send you a care package to help you prepare for your next victim. Enclosed is a set of authentic "Steve Smith" knives, a bottle of "Mickey's" to put your neighbors to sleep at opportune times, a dozen apples laced with cyanide and a set of poisonous darts. Please use these gifts with great caution, because they're extremely dangerous.

GM-Vie: Since it looks like we're both in the next game in TAD, I may get to use them sooner than you'd wish!

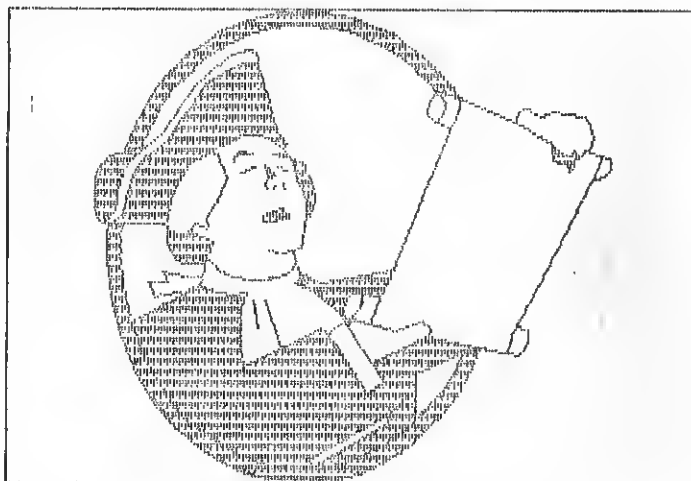
<Paris> The turmoil in France now seems to have ended with the landslide election of Michel Maurice as the new President. M. Maurice is reputed to have the solid backing of the French armed forces, altho during the election campaign he criticized them unmercifully for standing pat while all the other powers of Europe were on the march to consolidate gains and grow in power. "Altho we now appear weak, the potential of the French is yet mighty" the president proclaimed, "France has great glory in its future. Those foreign powers who have the foresight to see this and ally with France will benefit greatly, those who attempt to take advantage of our apparent weakness will greatly regret their foolishness!" The president also expressed his special thanks and gratitude to the leaders of the great Russian Empire, who provided much needed intelligence and background reports to the new French government.

Deadline for Fall/Winter 1902 is February 15, 1989. Mike Morris is playing France.

The Letter Column

Cathy Ozog: "Tom - I loved your subzine! Now - you'll write, yes? I'm glad to see you don't take any of this seriously, sadly there are a few people who think it's a life or death matter."

((OK, I confess. This wasn't really a letter per se; rather a note scrawled on my latest issue of Cathy's Ramblings. Feuds not life, and death? Look out Cathy, or Chris Carrier will deem you a certifiable hobby feud wimp. Yes, I'll write. What, to whom, and when, are all I need to answer now.))



Ron Cameron: "Tom, Don't want to get involved in semantics, but "ad-jucate" isn't in Webster's, "adjudicate" is. Surprised the Dipdom Tattler didn't catch your mixup in ish #2., but after all Tom, who are you trying to fool? You are the Dipdom Tattler! Ripping Jim Boob is one thing, but reviving the long forgotten Linsey-Caruso feud or reporting the history of it may be dangerous. Both Caruso and Linsey are dangerous and they can chew you up and spit you out before you know it. Just ask Olsen or Don Williams."

((Criticize my spelling if you will, Mr. C, but what has happened in your writing to that quaint convention of English, the pronoun? I am not the Tattler, but he seems to realize he bit off more than he can chew... see this month's column. If I wanted an objective opinion on the Linsey-Caruso feud, believe me, I would not go to Olsen. Kind of like asking Arafat to critique Israeli-West Bank relations.))

"I don't sub to The Scribblerist nor do I care to. How Mark can begin to place himself on the same level as the Bad Boys is not only gratuitous but sadly lacking in the true style of Bad Boy humor. We know that humor is lacking blatantly in BT,DT; I sure hope it's not in TS. Could Chris cross reference those feud numbers?"

((If you saw the last MegaDiplomat you'll see Chris has done, essentially, just that. At least your taste in zines is appropriate... I wouldn't sub to that rag The Scrib...,er, um.... I mean.... OK, moving on with Ron's letter....))

"And Tom, I certainly wasn't serious in my slam in ish #2. I wasn't even real. Are you real? Is Karel Alaric? The Dip world is not the real world. Define real. Define world. Unless these questions are answered, and answered soon, Mr. Nash. I will tell everyone in the hobby that you are a diehard Dodger fan. Also that you are the one who introduced my wife to Pedro Guerro, er Guerrero - oh hell, I can't even spell his name. Maybe Herb can help."

((Herb can help. He'll be glad to help you define what is real., and what is the world. Sure, any grown man who spends 8 hours a day playing with miniature tanks has a great handle on those issues, right?))

Vince Lutterbie: "Hello Tom Nash! What a zine, you've actually gotten your first nasty letter from Cameron. You'll have to excuse him,

counting other people's money all day makes him a bit testy (I've gotten a few of those from him myself). But he's actually a real nice guy. He plays "Acquire" so that puts him in a special elitist category which allows him to use a poison pen.

"What a crew you have in this zine (or whatever - subzine, etc) Dropping names like Geraldo Rivera, Morton Downey Jr (ought to be a Dipwit award there somewhere), Melinda Holley (a legend in her spare time) and even ME! So - what do you do for an encore? How about letting me in the M. Holley game as a standby, she's putty in my hands. If she gets me or Botimer upset, we NMR out, her standby list is shot, and her zine goes broke. She does what I say, what more can I say? ((I don't honestly know, but you certainly make an attempt to show us....)) You need to get Jimmy Williams in this zine ((looks like I have)). See CCC for an example.

"But as far as how I keep track of games, I write 7 different orders for each country, mix 'em up, throw them in the air, and randomly draw a set and use them in my games. I have 21 different form letters I use to send to allies, and 3 letters to enemies. An example - "Go to hell - you gravy sucking pig" ((very erudite, I must say)). I hope this proves useful to you and yours ((my what?)). Keep it up (oops - no dirty talk allowed - I'll bet).

((Vince.... I have one thing to say: where are those copies of "Floss Daily" you promised?))

Jimmy Williams: "I volunteer as a standby for all regular PBM Dip games in BT,DT. I was gonna send you \$5 and enroll in gamestart because I too, have a sex-thing for Vince Lutterbie ((I swear folks, I just types 'em as they come. I guess this is why Vince said I need to get Jimmy in this zine. Fellas, this is a respectable family zine, not a cheap motel for dentists and their.... whatever, to meet on the sly! Why don't you try Fiat Bellum for that. Williams is a broad minded kind of guy. And quite hard up for interesting material.)). I am currently on good terms with Mark Lilleheht ((look, the fact is bad enough, talking about it as if it were something to be proud of... is he selling you his PCP?)), D. Hood, M. Holley, and Lee Kendter. I thought, though I have a C64 ((again, why burden us with your misfortune?)), but no modem yet, that your game was only for PBEM. Now I will send \$5 if you want to enroll me and the start is for PBM too ((It is)). I will serve you well my Lord ((Look, if Vince is into that, it's his business. Dentists are known for their psycho/sexual sadistic tendencies. The drill representing... well, this is a family zine. But me, I'm not interested. Not unless you can get Melinda involved)).

Mike Morris: "Choo Choo hit .250 in '62, but only played in 55 games. His big year was '63. He got in 106 games that year, but hit only .178. He only played another six games in the majors after that!

"Elio Chacon also had a short career. '60, '61 and '62. He hit .236 in '62, acceptable for a second baseman, except that he couldn't field. Yes, the Mets had some real interesting folks! But as I suggested to you earlier, you might also look to the early Angels teams for some colorful guys as well. My favorite is Bo Belinsky, the worst pitcher ever to pitch a no-hitter. Altho it didn't do his career much good, it did give him the celebrity that was probably resulted in his meeting Mamie Van Doren, a porno star with whom he had a well publicized affair. We have our priorities in the right place on the West Coast."

Tim Moore: "As for Cameron, you have to forgive him((I most certainly do no!)). He's going through a lot what with the Dodgers losing Sax ((learn to spell Bob's name, Tim, or he'll de-list you in K.G.O. and appoint me "France in 88CJ Under the Covenant" This joke's wearing a little thin, eh?)). Cam gets overly excited when someone messes with his beloved team ((well, as a Dodger fan, I can understand. I'm still trying to figure out what has Jimmy Williams so overly excited though)). You might throw this subtopic (perfect for a subzine) out to the sharks: When do you send in your moves? You mentioned NMRing and with the Post Office not always reliable what is the answer? I've read about sending duplicate orders, and with some GMs you can call in, but I'm more interested in when during the deadline crunch they are sent. ((I don't have a system. Sometimes I send "preliminary orders" right away, knowing I'll probably change them. Other times I don't. It basically depends on the free time I have available. I've called in orders a couple of times, mostly to Melinda (love the sound of her voice!)), and actually faxed orders to Herb Barents once. What do the rest of y'all do?))

George Mann: "I personally have seen reviews of your zine in many newspapers as well as Hustler magazine. You should be honored." ((I thought about getting upset about this slander. Then I considered the source. I mean the guy publishes a dip and pro wrestling zine for Ghod's sake! So who can take him seriously?))

David Hood: "Keep up the good work. BT,DT is looking pretty good. Even better than that Scribblerist piece of ((censored)). And I can even spell your last name." ((Thanks David. Now the Hobby is waiting with baited breath... what exactly is it you do as "Hobby Events Coordinator?)).

YOU WERE THE DIPLOMAT!

Here are the answers to last issue's "You Be the Diplomat" quiz. Let's review these tense and complex situations before getting to your responses.

SITUATION #1: You receive a new gamestart notice. You've drawn Italy. You look over the other players. Hmmm.... Morton Downey Jr. has Austria. The Reverend Al Sharpton has Turkey, Roy Innis has France, Geraldo Rivera has England, Lee Atwater has Germany, and Russia is played by Robin Givens, assisted by her mother. You check the house rules; physical intimidation is not specifically prohibited.

What alliance structure do you pursue and why?

David Hood: "The East. There's no question what's going on here. Robin Givens/Mom will begin Winter '00

with wild accusations, lawsuits, etc., directed at Downey's Austria. Sharpton will take Robin under his wing, and give credence to her position - refusing to cite sources or provide real evidence unless the matter is resolved in a special session of the U.S. Congress (or at least the Diplomatic Congress)((hey, that's MY line!)). Thus Mort will be faced with an R/T right off the bat. Knowing me to be a Libertarian, he will naturally turn to me for help. Which of course I will give. It will be R/T vs. A/I - given that Sharpton's bark is worse than his

bite, I think we'd have a pretty good chance of Lepanto-ing him to death.

"The West. Rivera's England and Innis's France will likely not get along. As the chairs fly across the English Channel, Lee Atwater's Germany will refuse to side with either one, since Jack Kemp told him to reach out for both the black and hispanic vote. Atwater will be afraid to step on either of their toes and play a waiting game.

"This will give me a fair amount of latitude diplomatically. I would try to persuade Atwater that the black vote is less realistic given Bush's less-than-expected tally of black votes Nov. 7, so we can all attack Innis. Once France is gone I would try to point E/G in Givens's direction to give some relief to my pal Mort. Not a bad situation."

George Mann: "I would ally with Robins Givens and her mother against Austria. Everyone would turn against big-mouth Morton and he'd be easy to take out." ((now remember before taking this guy's advice next time you find yourself in a game with any of these folks... he puts out a dip and pro (sic) wresting zine!!!)).

Tim Moore: "This is too close to the truth for my tastes. Robin and I were close allies in a game back in '86. All you have to do with her is act like you are rich and she'll be all over you! Fortunately the game was orphaned before we got to meet face-to-face. Her mother was throwing the game into turmoil anyway, writing the parents of all the other players to put pressure on them. Of course, that would never happen nowadays...."

SITUATION #2: You get Italy again. Melinda Holley has Austria. A bad sign. She's also got Turkey. Yow. It gets worse. She's playing all the other 6 positions. Irate, you dash off a letter of protest to the GM. A letter comes in re- sponse from the GM, Melinda Holley. She was

desperate to play in and GM more games, and yours was the only game request she had on file. So... Not satisfied you write in protest to the B.N.C. for a regularity ruling. To your horror, you receive a letter from Steve Heinowski's brand new successor... the lady from West Virginia, Melinda Holley. She rules the game regular. The hobby ombudsman? Worth a try, and your response comes from the new hobby ombudswoman... you got it. At this point you give in and decide to play the damned game. What alliance structure do you pursue and why?

Jeff McKee: "Obviously your alliance structure must include an alliance with Melinda Ann Holley, but how do you get that? First of all, if you are female, convince her that in order for women to continue to dominate Diplomacy, they must work together. A two-way will be in the bag.

"If you are male, however, things get more tricky. Pray that Melinda Ann Holley is not also President of the National Organization of Women. Tell her that without men, there wouldn't be any hockey on the radio, at least for a couple of years until women take the sport over. "If you eliminate me then there won't be any little Melinda Ann Holleys, just more clones of yourself at your own age, and you're not getting any younger. If you attack me your spaghetti will come with hog balls instead of meatballs."

"If the above doesn't work, perhaps Melinda will be schizoprenic and attack herself. Perhaps some common sense will work in your favor. Tell Melinda (France) that Melinda (England) can't possibly *not* attack her.

"If none of the above works, there's always 'and I suppose a blow job is out of the question.'

Otherwise, getting screwed by the most prolific female in the hobby!"

George Mann: "I believe this to be an easy question as I know that Melinda Ann Holley is a code name for an experiment being run by the C.I.A. As Melinda only wants to use ally with you when she has the upper hand, I would ally with the strongest country."

Tim Moore: "No great answer to this other than stick it out, and see how she does with herself. I wonder what the press would be like?"

David Hood: "This one is easy. As I have said since entering the hobby in 1986, 'Melinda Holley' is not one person. Clearly no one person could GM or be in that many games. No, my theory is that 'Melinda Holley' is simply a codename for a large group

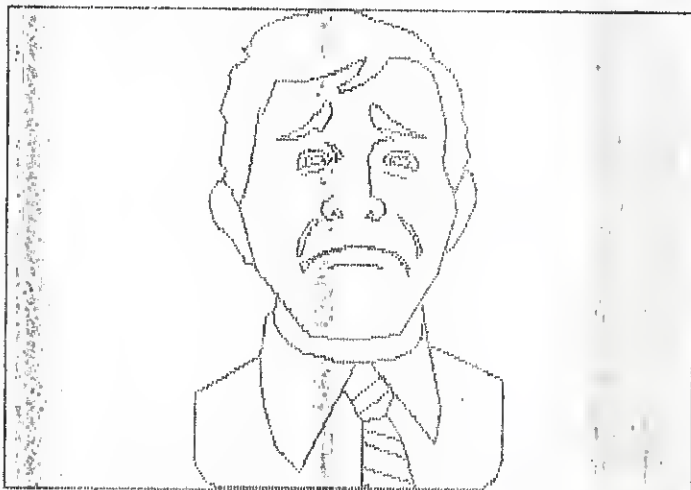
of Huntington WV Dip players who want to save on sub fees. Since all these 'Melinda Holley's are different people, the only problem will be finding out which one is which. I will either hire a private eye to stake out their P.O. Box, or I'll go there myself and confront these people. Once I threaten to expose their fraud and misrepresentation to the rest of the hobby I should have no trouble winning the game in 1903 or so (although I will certainly put it off until 1905, so it can be scored by Steven Wilcox in the Dragonstooth Rating System. Oh, I forgot - Wilcox hasn't put that out in a while. Well, since 'Melinda Holley' will probably take it over, I won't have to worry about it being 'regular' any more."

The DipDom Tattler

Last issue I passed along the Tattler's promise to expose the origin of the "Great Feud, the postal game replete with vicious stabs, broken alliances, and herd feelings that led to the current state of mass mailings, feudzines, and the amazing fact that someone like Chris Carrier has actually managed to find a niche for himself in the hobby! Supposedly, the intrepid Tattler, using the hazy web of contacts he maintains, had dug up what others only speculated about... the zine, the game, the boardman number, etc. to document the whole bloody mess. However, it is not to be. Instead, I received a tattered, stained letter, stating the following:

"Tom, for once, I come to you empty handed, and cowed. There are some things not meant to be known by the human race. Back in the late 60s I worked for Jim Garrison investigating the J.F.K. assassination and witnesses were dying right and left. That was nothing compared to the last 3 weeks."

"Every time I had someone on the phone with an extensive archives of rare dipzines, just as I asked if they had copies of the zine who's name I dare not speak, the one that ran the game that started the feud, there would be muffled moans, cries, and a dial tone. A redial told me that



the number was disconnected (it can't be done that quickly!). A quick call to directory assistance told me that person was not listed (they damned well were 10 minutes ago!). Birth certificates were disappearing. Social security was losing track of diplomacy editors, archivists, and old-time retired players who thought they remembered that game. How deep does the conspiracy run to keep this game hidden? Every time I was on the verge of blowing it open, 3 people would die of mysterious circumstances, 4 more would disappear, and 7 would suddenly seem to never HAVE existed!

"Did this scare me? Nah! Not me. I was more driven. I would find and publish the truth for all the hobby to know. I swore it! I mean, how high could this all go? And I had one more lead. About 5 weeks ago there was a meeting set up among a few obscure, forgotten retired PBM players and archivists. They were all to be carrying the evidence of the game, the answers to the riddle. In many cases they carried the only remaining copy of zines, letters, and other documents referring to the game that spawned the feud. We set the meeting in as remote part of the globe from the mainstream PBM community for security reasons. Surely the arms of the conspiracy to keep me silent would never reach there.

"I had last minute urgent business pertaining to another matter, and had to cancel my scheduled flight, thinking I'd fly out the next day to meet the others, who'd already assembled at the meeting place. I never caught that plane. The next day the meeting place was destroyed, utterly, with all the documents and people involved. We'd decided to meet in Soviet Armenia. I give up. Utterly and completely. In fact, I'm off to an un-named tropical site to rest, forget, and contemplate whether I even want to continue as the Tattler. Will let you know. Meanwhile, I strongly suggest you drop all so-called humorous references to the feud and the principals involved. Get out while you can, before it's too late!"

ODDS AND ENDS

The P.D.O. census is out, and available for a buck from Dick Martin at 17601 Lisa Drive, Rockville, MD 20855-1319. Names and addresses of 666 American dipsters (bad number if you're into the Book of Revelation, I would imagine), and 40 Canadians. Quite handy to find the address of the French player in that game you're in quickly. Maryland, with 60 players represented, is a solid second behind only California's 74. Virginia's 3rd with 53. A strong showing for the capitol area. There are 37 Steves, 34 Johns, and 6 Andersons.

And confidential to Susan Welter... no, cranberry juice won't flush turkey gravy from the fat cells. Highly acidic substances, like Ocean Spray help the body flush fat soluble chemicals like THC and PCP from the fat cells they store in, speeding the detoxification process. Sadly, it doesn't work with turkey gravy.

The "Draft Jeff McKee for B.N.C." movement is progressing nicely.

And, lest we forget, Been There, Done That is published by Tom Nash, 5512 Pilgrim Road, Blatimore, MD 21214. (301) 254-2836. CIS #74676,3310.